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The logic of Professor Skelton appears sound and his conclusions irresistible, and yet the growing discontent of the present day, which is not the product of any theory, cannot be removed by any merely theoretical criticism, however conclusive. Socialistic theory is a by-product of the industrial system, and when one theory is overthrown a score of others will arise to take its place. In the fable, when all the arguments of the wolf were answered he still determined to eat the lamb, because he was hungry. Admitting the falsity of the Marxian theories, it still remains to convince the working class that hope for better things lies in the prospect of a gradual improvement of capitalism rather than in the expectation of revolutionary and impracticable collectivism. If this cannot be done, it may be that the social revolution will take place and the prophecies of Marx be fulfilled, though all his theoretical basis crumble and fall to the ground.

Professor Skelton's criticism of the modern socialist ideal is pertinent and interesting, and his sketch of the modern socialist movement is very satisfactory. The bibliography is the best that has yet been published. Altogether, the book is an important contribution to anti-socialist literature.

J. E. LE ROSSIGNOL

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA

Labor Laws and Their Enforcement, with Special Reference to Massachusetts.

By CHARLES E. PERSONS, MABEL PARTON, MABELLE MOSES, and three "Fellows," Edited by SUSAN M. KINGSBURY, Ph.D. New York: Longmans, Green & Co., 1911. 8vo, pp. xxii+419. \$2.00 net.

This volume is the second of a series of studies in economic relations of women planned by the Department of Research of the Women's Educational and Industrial Union of Boston, and financed by the Fellowship Foundation of the Massachusetts State Federation of Women's Clubs 1905-9. The six studies which make up the volume present an interesting variety in point of attack. The first chapter, "Early History of Factory Legislation in Massachusetts, 1825-74," by Charles E. Persons, and the fifth chapter, "Labor Laws in Massachusetts, 1902-10," a digest by Edith Reeves, supplement in very interesting ways the history of factory legislation in Massachusetts,¹ published by Sarah S. Whittelsey in 1901. Chap. iii is a criticism of the Massachusetts Child-Labor Law, pointing out where the child wage-earners had prior to 1910 in Massachusetts failed to receive not only adequate protection but that measure of protection which had been given to the working children of New York and of Illinois. Changes and amendments intended to strengthen the law and render it more effective are indicated. Such subsidiary governmental processes as the school census, the better registration of births, more rigorous inspection and registration of immigrant children are discussed, as well as substantial change in the law, and a presentation of the Massachusetts method of handling the street-trading children is included. The writer of this chapter is, however, mainly interested and, soundly so, in the efficient application of laws already enacted rather than in the amendment of laws left inadequately enforced or altogether unenforced.

In chap. iv, "The Standing of Massachusetts in the Administration of Labor Legislation," the Massachusetts methods of enforcement as compared with those in use in other states are described, and the relative merit of the various methods is

¹ *Massachusetts Labor Legislation, an Historical and Critical Study*, by Sarah S. Whittelsey.

intelligently discussed. The material presented in this chapter is rendered especially convenient and available by the use of charts. Chap. ii on "Unregulated Conditions in Women's Work," contains interesting material obtained by Miss Mabel Parton, former director of the department, and by Miss Caroline Manning, by taking employment in various establishments in which the work of women is used, together with suggestions for reforms based on their experience. Miss Parton studied rubber factories and cordage and twine factories in this way and found in the former that, in many workrooms, the air was pervaded with naphtha fumes, and in others with fine talc dust, which could easily be carried off by proper mechanical devices; that the workers were neither duly cautious nor adequately safeguarded with reference to putting rubber in their mouths or to eating with unwashed hands after working and in workrooms. In the cordage and twine factories, she found unsuitable, unwholesome conditions in the lack of adequate dressing-rooms, and in the failure to provide for the use of the moisture necessary for the processes so as to expose as little as possible to the dangers of cold and wet the persons of the workers. Here, too, there are the dangers incident to all dust-producing processes. Miss Manning experimented during a period amounting to a year and a half, as a wage-worker in twenty-nine establishments, among them factories, shops, and restaurants. Of these, the restaurants showed the greatest lack of sanitary arrangements, as well as the most flagrant violation of laws of hygiene and cleanliness, and of the labor laws of the state.

Chap. vi, "The Regulation of Private Employment Agencies in the United States," is again a comparative study of legislation in the various states with reference to the control over employment agencies conducted by private individuals for profit. As the writer points out, the distribution of labor becomes an increasingly important function, and the adjustment of supply of labor to the demand so as to reduce the hideous waste of under-employment has led to the establishment in England of a national system of labor exchanges and to the maintenance of labor bureaus in many of the German cities. Public employment agencies have also been established in a number of states in this country; but nowhere has the undertaking been generously financed or so equipped as to allow of its competing with the private agency. The question of due control over the private agency, therefore, which in the case of men has large opportunities for graft and corrupt dealing, and in the case of women can be easily turned to use by the immoral element in the community besides practicing various petty forms of graft² becomes of great importance.

These papers, as would be expected, differ widely in their form and in the skill with which they are presented. While Dr. Persons' study of early factory legislation is the work of a skilled hand, other chapters show that they are the work of students in training. They have, however, as Dean Gay states in his interesting Preface, a "common purpose"—"that of giving a clearer understanding of the development and present position of labor legislation in Massachusetts as a preliminary to further improvement of the law and its administration"; and they are an admirable illustration of the fact that fragments, when part of a well-devised whole, assume a new dignity and take on an added utility from that relationship. As Dr. Kingsbury states in her Introductory Note, the practical purpose underlying this work and the intimate connection between the Women's Educational and Industrial Union and all constructive effort in Massachusetts in behalf of women and children, give to all of

² *The Employment Agency and the Immigrant*, Grace Abbott, in the *American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 14, p. 289.

these studies a very real interest, while to Dr. Persons' contribution there attaches the value of an aspect of social history thoroughly, intelligently, and very agreeably presented.

S. P. BRECKINRIDGE

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The Influence of Wealth in Imperial Rome. By WILLIAM STEARNS DAVIS.
New York: Macmillan, 1910. 8vo, pp. 340. \$2.00 net.

In the title of his book the author of several well-known historical novels and the brief *Outline History of the Roman Empire* seems to promise a treatment of an important phase of economic history. The Introduction more specifically sets forth the purpose: ". . . to consider the influence of money and the commercial spirit throughout the period of Roman greatness." Though in his materials the author repeatedly ranges outside of his prescribed limits this period is confined to approximately the two centuries before and the two centuries after Christ.

Thus his topic, dealing with the *nervus rerum*, is very inclusive. Under it the author has assembled the greater part of the standard material on the question, taking as his sources the German, French, and English writers. He has not exhausted the possibilities even here. Pauly-Wissowa, Gummerus, the Papyri, and the Inscriptions, particularly of the East, have been used only in a small way. Professor Davis disclaims originality for his work, though in instances he has gone beyond his sources. He is writing a popular account, justified in his mind sufficiently by the fact that no treatment of the material from this particular angle exists.

The book opens with a snappy sketch of the "Panic of 33 A.D."—a good piece of journalism in which the rather matter-of-fact statements of Tacitus and Suetonius are "played up" and arouse in the reader the lively expectation of keen enjoyment of the lighter sort. Happily, however, the captivating introduction is followed by less embellished chapters. In his pleasing style and command of narrative the author in eight chapters deals with: the evil of political corruption in Rome and the provinces (cf. on this the first chapter of Greenidge: *History of Rome*, Vol. I), particularly the dark deeds of governors, publicani, and negotiatores—the various means of acquiring wealth in a more or less legitimate fashion, with short, skimpy sketches of some related topics, such as roads and travel; the question of the disbursement of riches by means sane and otherwise; the social and economic conditions of what are commonly known as the "lower classes." Dealing in this connection with the liberality and munificence of the Roman in private and public life he opens up what to the majority of the readers will be a novel view of the Roman character, his seeming utter lack of self-respect when it came to "accepting" gifts and donations. After brief considerations of marriage, divorce, and childlessness, to which is added material on legacy-hunting, the writer ends with additions to the even now bewildering mass of "Reasons Why the Roman Empire Fell." The influence of Seeck is here quite noticeable in the theory of the progressive killing-off of the best. The wide opportunities of the topic have led the author into treating some subjects only very remotely connected with the main issue. Some of these are "Certain Modern Phases," "Small Farmers and Coloni," "Back to the Country." Granting these subjects admission, there are other factors at least equally to the point, but left out.

Taken as a whole the book lacks close adherence to the thesis; it makes the